

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of
Matthew G. Howell

Application No.: 08/987,005

Filed: December 8, 1997

For: METHOD FOR
MANAGING CABLES

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Group Art Unit: 3729

Examiner: B. Rushing, Jr.

Atty. Docket No.: MICE-0059-00-US
(97.02260.00)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

REPLY TO AN OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 20, 2000

Dear Sir:

In an Office Action mailed on January 20, 2000, claims 5, 7-10, 15, 16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hukin; and claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hukin in view of Newhouse. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Without more specific references to Hukin, the Assignee cannot determine why Hukin allegedly teaches the elements of claims 5 or claim 18. For example, the method of claim 5 is used with a tray that has a notch at an upper portion of the tray and a notch at a lower portion of the tray. A determination is made if the notch at the upper portion of the tray is to be used to pass the length of cable, and if so, the length of cable is routed through the upper portion notch. The Assignee cannot find an upper portion notch in a tray in the arrangement that is disclosed in Hukin. For at least this reason, the Assignee requests withdrawal of the rejections of claim 5 and claims 6-10, 15 and 16 that depend therefrom.

Similarly, the method of claim 18 includes mounting a tray in a corner between a floor and a wall, and a lower portion of the tray includes a groove underneath a lower portion notch of the tray. The Assignee cannot find any such lower portion notch in a

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.
Corey McGowan



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tray in Hukin, and for at least this reason, the Assignee requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 18 and claims 19 and 20 that depend therefrom.



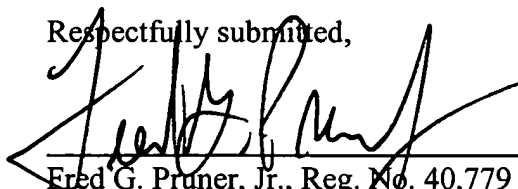
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Assignee withdrawal of the § 102(b) and § 103(a) rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Please credit any overpayments and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (MICE-0059-00).

4/18/2000

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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